taken the utmost pains to verify my statements, and have included nothing for which I was unable to find reliable authority. Many will doubtless be surprised, for example, to discover the extent of the participation of the Jews in the maritime discoveries of the fifteenth century. But the data are indubitably as I have stated them—my account cannot claim even the merit of originality. It must be borne in mind, after all, that general ignorance of a fact does not necessarily weaken its validity.

I am certain, moreover, that any baseless claims which may have been made, notwithstanding my caution, are far outnumbered by the omissions, whether due to ignorance or to the obvious impossibility of being able to ascertain the precise antecedents of every individual. Nothing has been further from my mind than any sort of Jewish chauvinism. A man or a group of men does

not deserve particular merit for having performed his or their duty. Only when the fact is impugned does demonstration become necessary.

My indebtedness in the composition of a work of such complexity is too great to permit detailed acknowledgement to all who have assisted me, I must, however, express my deep gratitude at least to Dr. Charles Singer, who revised the chapters on the Jews in Medicine and kindred branches, in the light of his vast knowledge: to my brother, Professor Leon Roth, of the University of Jerusalem, for contributing the essential part of the section on Philosophy: and to my wife, who with heroic application compiled the Index.

C

ECIL ROTH

London, December, 1937.